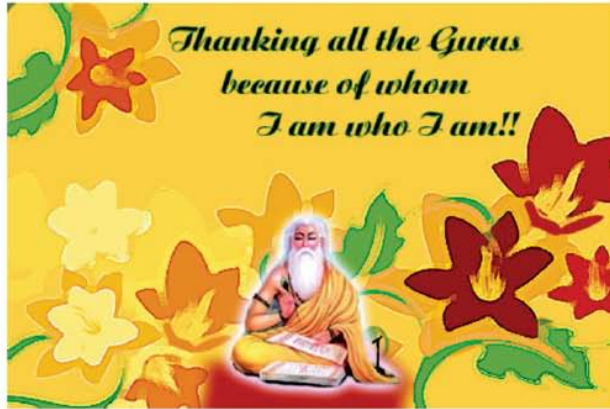


# TEACHERS WORTH REMEMBERING



**W**e know that September 5 every year is celebrated as the TEACHERS' DAY in honour of the birthday of great philosopher and educationist Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Each school in India has its own way of celebrating this day. However in most of the cases it is the students of the senior most class who take the responsibility of organizing this event. Students identify themselves with different teachers, step into their shoes and try to manage the school for the day to their best. In addition they also find time to express their gratitude to their teachers by way of honouring them in all ways possible. In this context, I owe my sincere gratitude to the Managements of all those Schools who try to make this day special to their staff. Dear Teachers,

Firstly, I take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Happy Teachers' Day. In this context, let us ask ourselves few questions.

- Am I a teacher by choice or by chance?
- Am I satisfied with my job?
- What matters the most for me in this profession?
- Do I want my students to remember me in their life?

School teachers are the ones most remembered by students throughout their lives. Not everyone and it is only those who have inspired or touched their lives.

So what exactly it means to be a TEACHER worth remembering. "Preach what you practice" must be the first and the foremost quality of a teacher. For example a teacher who cannot respect students has no right to command respect.

A teacher should be "Perseverant" in his/her efforts to ensure that even the last student of the class understands the concept to the best of his/her ability.

A teacher should be "Flexible" in his/her approach to cater to the needs of all types of learners. A teacher should be "consistent" in his/her behaviour. Students never appreciate a teacher whose behaviour is unpredictable.

A teacher should know the difference between "being strict and being firm". Being strict without understanding the child's

psyche can never yield desired results but being firm with a genuine understanding of the child's psyche leads to long term benefits. A teacher should be a "lifelong learner". It means one should have the passion to explore experiment and experience the joy of learning. Otherwise, a teacher is just adding years to his/her career without growing even by an inch.

A teacher should be "self sacrificing". Only a lighted candle can light another. Similarly a teacher who is passionate alone can ignite the minds of students. A teacher with a calculated mindset in terms of time and money can never be inspiring. On the contrary they become a burden to the society because their approach leads to gaps in learning which encourages the students to look for alternative (tuitions and coaching classes) to meet the expectations. Lastly before we embark on our journey to evolve as great teachers it is better we know the difference between a TEACHER and a GURU. This would enable us to choose the right path in this noble andover.

Let us honour both the teacher and the guru in our life. Realizing the responsibility we have on our shoulders as TEACHERS let us strive to inculcate the right values in our students so that they make right choices in their lives and be able to live a purposeful life.

**"I am indebted to my father for living but to my teacher for living well."**  
- Alexander the Great



## TEACHER VERSUS GURU

TEACHER	GURU
Takes responsibility for your growth	Makes you responsible for your growth
Give you things you do not have and require	Takes away things you have and do not require
Answers your questions	Questions your answer
Helps you get out of the maze	Destroys the maze
Requires obedience and discipline from the pupil	A guru requires trust and humility from the pupil
Clothes you and prepares you for your outer journey	Strips you naked & prepares you for your inner journey
Is a guide on the path	Is a pointer to the way
Sends you on the road to success	Takes you on the road to freedom
Explains the world and its nature to you	Explains you and your nature to you
Gives you knowledge and boosts your ego	Takes away your knowledge : punctures your ego
Instructs you	Constructs you
Sharpens your mind	Opens your mind
Shows you the way to prosperity	Shows you the way to posterity
Reaches your mind	Touches your spirit
Gives you knowledge	Makes you wise
Gives you maturity	Returns you to innocence
Instructs you how to solve problems	Shows you how to resolve issues
Is a systematic thinker	Is a lateral thinker
Might punish you with a stick	Will punish you with compassion
Is to a pupil what a father is to a son	Is to a pupil what a mother is to her child
One can always find a teacher	But a guru has to find and accept you
A teacher leads you by the hand	A guru leads you by example
When a teacher finishes with you, you celebrate	When a guru finishes with you, life celebrates
You are thankful to the teacher	You are grateful to the guru